

# **IMPORTANT UPDATE**

## **WASTEWATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

Effective November 1, 2002, the Operator Certification Program will remain an active program of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The staff of the Office of Operator Certification (OOC) will resume full activities.

On October 18, 2002, operators and treatment plants were notified that the SWRCB was facing staffing and funding reductions as a result of the State's budget difficulties. To cut our staffing and related costs, programs at both the SWRCB and Regional Water Quality Control Boards were evaluated and proposed for reduction or elimination. The Operator Certification Program was one proposed for elimination at the SWRCB.

We hoped it was possible for a seamless transition from the SWRCB to a reliable organization to carry on the program. It was our goal that there be no disruption to the wastewater treatment plant operators. However in the process of the transition, we found that we could not accomplish our goal in a timely fashion. We are truly sorry for any disruption our actions may have caused.

Our budget challenges have not changed. The Operator Certification Program is still under-funded. We will ask our Board to consider increasing certification and examination fees to make the program fiscally sound. We hope we can count on your support in this effort.

Perhaps, the following information will be of assistance as we restart the program.

### **Renewals of Certificates Expiring on December 31, 2002**

All forms previously submitted to the OOC will be processed. OOC staff will send a reminder letter and new form to anyone who has not sent in their renewal. Due to the backlog, we may not be able to mail new certificates to everyone by December 31, 2002. If you send in your renewal form AND you do not receive a certificate by December 31, 2002, please have your Chief Plant Operator call the OOC at (916) 341-5639. We will verify if your certificate is in good standing.

### **New Applications**

Eligible individuals may submit applications for certification and operator-in-training certificates. This includes people who successfully pass the October 2002 examination.

**New Hires**

If you hired staff during the break in the program, please make sure they submit any necessary applications to the OOC immediately at Post Office Box 944212, Sacramento, CA 94244.

**October 2002 Examination**

We are on schedule to send results for the grades I and II tests on November 15, 2002. Grades III, IV and V results will be mailed on December 27, 2002.

**April 2003 Examination**

We will be giving the upcoming April 5, 2003 examination. Applications must be postmarked by the final filing date of February 1, 2003.

**Questions**

Please contact Jennifer Nitta at (916) 341-5639 or Sandy Malos at (916) 341-5731 if you have questions.

11/6/02